



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - FAS internal use only

**Date:** 7/15/2005

**GAIN Report Number:** PO5016

## Portugal

### Biotechnology Update

### The GOP Appears to be Establishing "GMO Free Zones" with its new Coexistence Decree

**Approved by:**

Stephen Hammond  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Leonor Ramos

---

**Report Highlights:**

The Government of Portugal has a biotechnology coexistence decree, the third European Member State to enact coexistence policy. As a result of the terms of the decree, the Ministry of Agriculture is now developing additional legislation to regulate "GMO free Zones" facilitated by the coexistence decree.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Madrid [SP1]  
[PO]

**Executive Summary**

During a visit to Portuguese Agriculture Minister Jaime Silva, Agriculture Counselor and the Charge d'Affairs discussed the new coexistence decree. In the meeting, Minister Silva characterized the decree as something that would not prohibit the planting of biotechnology seeds in areas of the mid-to-south of Portugal where farms are large and better equipped to adapt to new technologies (please see PO5007).

However, apart from difficult requirements for buffer zones (200 meters from traditional and 300 from organic production) Minister Silva also said something that we had not heard expressed before. He said that he is working on new legislation to complement the coexistence decree that would regulate the "GMO-free zones" in certain interested municipalities that will be created as a result of the decree. We asked him if the "GMO-free zones" wouldn't be comparable to the "bans" in other countries. He did not believe that these zones would be or that they would run counter to the EC requirements for coexistence.

We will continue to talk with Ministry of Agriculture officials to monitor their progress on the upcoming legislation, and attempt to gain more precision with respect to these pending coexistence enhancements.